

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

October 5, 2021

Conducted Remotely

Commission Members Present: Laura Derks (Chair), Colin Taylor, Lisa Boone, Liz Lukehart, Stephen Morales, Cassandra West, Darryl Baker.

Commission Members Absent: Mark Goldberg, Crystal Hodges

Staff Liaisons Present: Mindy Agnew, Sustainability Coordinator; Marcella Bondie Keenan, Sustainability Coordinator; and Erica Helms, Sustainability Fellow.

Guest Presenters Present: Stephanie Hacker, Sarah Walwema, and Brianna Fiorillo from GRAEF; and John Carter from ERG.

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Derks at 5:35 p.m.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** A Motion was made to approve the agenda and it was unanimously approved with no revisions.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** A Motion was made to approve previous meeting minutes with suggested revisions and it was unanimously approved with none opposed.
4. **Public Comment:** No public comment.
5. **Agenda Items:**
 - **Discussion of 2021 accomplishments and 2022 work plan:**
 - Mindy Agnew confirms that 2022 work plans should be ready by November for review by the Village Manager, and are to be approved in January.
 - Concerns come up about allocating sustainability funds, clarification is needed about restrictions and the amount able to be utilized.
 - Mindy will send a draft of the discussed 2021 accomplishments for final review.
 - Discussion begins about the 2022 Work Plan.
 - Mindy mentions that it would be beneficial for the EEC to review the board goals and align with them. It is suggested that commissioners also review recent budget meetings to better understand the initiatives that can be included in the 2022 work plan.
 - Time frame for next meeting: finalize the 2022 work plan and review green award nominations.

- **Discussion of Consultant Scope of Work and EEC Role for Oak Park Climate Action Plan**
 - GRAEF consulting team presents an overview of the project, including the extended 12-month project schedule and a community engagement framework, including EEC's proposed role in the planning process. GRAEF and Village staff answer questions concerning the details of the scope.
 - EEC commissioners offer the following feedback on the proposed scope:
 - Community engagement could be similar to a process that a Commissioner has used in a healthcare setting: interviews, surveys, and focus groups with financial incentives for participants who aren't typically involved in the issue.
 - Commissioners are able to add to a list of community organizations to contact for outreach partnerships.
 - School districts and youth (grade school, middle school, high school) should be engaged. Engage with youth leaders. Provide communication to all school parents. Partner across the school clubs and groups, both those that are and aren't sustainability-focused.
 - A Day In Our Village is a great opportunity for an interactive activity about prioritization. There could be an interactive exhibit that displays where community feedback has come from, and how it has been reflected in prioritization.
 - Food sovereignty and local resilient food systems should be included as climate plan goals.
 - There should be a discussion with Trustees that results in an agreement on whether to rely on offsets and RECs (renewable energy credits) for carbon mitigation.
 - Village staff request feedback on the proposed EEC role as "plan ambassadors." The majority of commissioners present were in agreement; two indicated they had further questions. Village staff invited commissioners to individually contact them for further discussion.
 - Village staff requested any further feedback on the proposed scope be provided by Friday, 10/8/21.
 - Mindy will circulate a package for the next meeting and asks that commissioners please email agenda items.
6. **Adjourn:** At 7:00 p.m. a motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting.

The next EEC meeting is planned for November 9th at 5:30pm.